

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 01156 01 OF 02 141032Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----015345 141035Z /10
O 131828Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4227

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 01156

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y DOWNGRADING INSTRUCTIONS
(XGDS-1 VICE GDS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SITUATION-CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
ALLIES

REF: A) STATE 8959
B) PARIS 902

1. I HAVE TAKEN UP QUESTIONS RELATING TO ITALIAN
SITUATION WITH ELYSEE SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCOIS-
PONCET. HE TOLD ME THAT IN GISCARD'S ABSENCE IN
ABIDJAN, HE COULD NOT GIVE US AN AUTHORITATIVE
DEFINITION OF GISCARD'S CURRENT ANALYSIS OF ITALIAN
SITUATION, REACTION TO THE US STATEMENT, OR
HIS JUDGEMENT OF WHAT ACTIONS IF ANY FRENCH THEMSELVES
MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE. CERTAINLY, GISCARD WAS SERIOUSLY
CONCERNED OVER THE RECENT TURN OF EVENTS IN ROME.
PROBABLY, FRANCOIS-PONCET THOUGHT, HE SHARED THE US
APPRECIATION THAT THE SITUATION WAS SERIOUS.
OBVIOUSLY, FRANCOIS-PONCET ASSURED ME, ITALY WOULD BE
ONE OF THE FIRST, IF NOT THE FIRST ISSUE, TO
WHICH GISCARD WILL TURN HIS ATTENTION ON HIS RETURN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 01156 01 OF 02 141032Z

EARLY NEXT WEEK. FRANCOIS-PONCET THEREFORE URGED
ME TO WAIT UNTIL THEN BEFORE PURSUING ISSUE FURTHER.
IN THE MEANTIME, HE HINTED BROADLY WE SHOULD NOT PAY
TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO OTHERS IN GOF -- AN EVIDENT
ALLUSION TO THE QUAI D'ORSAY -- WHO
THOUGHT THAT ITALY WAS A "SPECIAL CASE".

2. FRANCOIS-PONCET'S PRUDENT, MODESTLY ENCOURAGING REACTION HAS TO BE READ AGAINST INCREASING EVIDENCE OF A SPLIT IN FRENCH RANKS ON ITALY. SEVERAL OTHER CONVERSATIONS IN LAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS HAVE CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION (REF B) THAT SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT CONTINUES BETWEEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR PUAUX IN ROME AND MEMBERS OF THE ELYSEE STAFF ON THE ONE HAND (WHO SUBSTANTIALLY AGREE THAT THE SITUATION IN ROME IS SERIOUS AND SLIPPING FAST) AND MOST ECHELONS AT THE QUAI ON THE OTHER. LATTER CONSIDER THAT WE ARE BEING TOO ALARMIST, SINCE THERE IS NO REAL RISK OF EARLY PCI PARTICIPATION IN GOI (IGNORING DANGERS OF OTHER CONCESSIONS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE); AND THAT THE US STATEMENT WILL THEREFORE BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, SINCE IT WILL STIFFEN ITALIAN POLITICAL POSITIONS AND SO REMOVE THE FLEXIBILITY NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE ANOTHER COMPROMISE.

3. THIS WAS THE THRUST OF EUROPEAN DIRECTOR ANDREANI'S REMARKS YESTERDAY TO POL COUNSELOR. THE SAME LINE IN MORE EMOTIONAL TERMS WAS LATER REFLECTED BY THE ITALIAN DESK TO EMBOFF. IT WAS ALSO THE POINT OF A TELEGRAM ALONG ABOVE LINES TO WASHINGTON (WHICH QUAI SECGEN SOUTOU AUTHORIZED IN LAST TWO DAYS AND WHICH EMBOFF HAD READ TO HIM) IN WHICH QUAI MADE SURE THAT ITS PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 01156 01 OF 02 141032Z

ACCEPT PUAUX'S VIEW, AS APPARENTLY REFLECTED TO AMBASSADOR GARDNER, THAT SITUATION WAS SERIOUS AND THAT A US ACTION WAS DESIRABLE.

4. ELYSEE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SOURCE TODAY TOLD EMBOFF IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THAT GISCARD ON THE OTHER HAND "GREATLY VALUED" PUAUX'S VIEWS, WHILE QUAI WAS RUNNING SCARED FOR FEAR OF POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER US INTERVENTION BEFORE FRENCH ELECTION.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 01156 02 OF 02 131918Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----009294 131920Z /50

O 131828Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4228

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01156

NODIS

5. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND WE WERE FORTUNATE
IN MODERATE TONE OF PUBLIC REPLY JUST MADE BY QUAI TO
A QUESTION ON THE US STATEMENT ON ITALY - WHICH EVI-
DENTLY REFLECTS A CAREFUL COMPROMISE. SPOKESMAN SAID
THAT IT WAS NOT ABNORMAL THAT THE US, IN ITS ROLE AS
AN ALLY, EXPRESSES A VIEW ON THE POSSIBLE PARTICI-
PATION OF COMMUNISTS IN WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. THE US
STATEMENT, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, CLEARLY RECOGNIZES
THE SOVERIGNTY OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AND THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER HAD, WHILE IN FRANCE, ABSTAINED FROM
ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS QUESTION.

6. I ASSUME QUAI'S CONSTRUCTIVE PUBLIC ANSWER RE-
FLECTS FRANCOIS-PONCET'S VIEW, SINCE HE ALSO HINTED
BROADLY IN SPEAKING TO ME THAT FRANCE HAD "HAD TO
OBJECT" TO SUCH STATEMENTS WHEN DIRECTED AT FRANCE,
BUT MIGHT "SEE SOME MERIT" IN THEM WHEN DIRECTED"
AT OTHERS".

7. I WOULD ALSO ASSUME, THEREFORE, THAT GISCARD WILL
NOT OBJECT TO OUR STATEMENT WHEN HE RETURNS; ALTHOUGH
HE MAY WELL FEEL THAT FRANCE'S OWN CAPACITY TO HELP IN
ITALY WILL BE LIMITED. IN PLACE OF THE PROJECTED
ANDREOTTI VISIT TO PARIS, WHICH WAS RECENTLY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 01156 02 OF 02 131918Z

CANCELLED, HE MAY WELL, I WOULD EXPECT, BE PREPARED
TO CONSIDER THE USEFULNESS OF OTHER VERY DISCRETE
FRENCH WAYS OF AGAIN BOLSTERING THE DC LEADERSHIP'S
SPINE AND ASSURANCE.
HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, CAT-B, MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS01156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850103-2076, N780001-0384
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780165/aaaacczf.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4923fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 8959, 78 PARIS 902
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3777605
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN SITUATION-CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, PFOR, IT, US, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4923fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014